

16. EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

The Atlanta Public Schools is responsible for the delivery of public education to the City. Its mission is to ensure the life long achievement of every child through effective and innovative teaching that meets the needs of the individual learner; aims at daily success; engages families, teachers, students and community in full participation; and capitalizes on Atlanta's global presence.

The Atlanta Public Schools system is in the fourth year of a five-year comprehensive school reform program. The program is broad in its reach and targeted in its goals. Innovative approaches to improving academic performance, increasing enrollment in advanced studies and decreasing absenteeism have achieved results that outpace the rest of the state. Other programs award scholarships, prevent dropouts, and apply innovative teaching strategies.

A key component to the Atlanta Public Schools whole-school reform movement is the implementation of Project GRAD. Project GRAD is a school-community collaborative to improve the instructional quality and culture of at-risk feeder patterns in school systems. The goal of the program is to find and implement the most cost-effective, research-based prescription for addressing the educational needs of an inner-city school system. Project GRAD seeks to prove that the problems facing inner-city school systems can be overcome with the right resources, strategies, and school-community collaboration.

Project GRAD is being implemented in the Washington High School feeder cluster, which has 12 schools: Washington High; Sylvan and Kennedy Middle Schools and Arkwright, Bethune, Connally, Herndon, Oglethorpe, Jones, Perkerson, Ragsdale and Venetian Hills Elementary Schools. The cluster consists of 6,900 students and 800 staff members (500 instructional and 300 non-instructional)

This year the program will be implemented in the cluster of schools that feed into both Carver and South Atlanta High Schools. The 17-school clusters include Long, Parks and Price Middle Schools and Capitol View, Cleveland Avenue, Dobbs, Gideons, Heritage Academy, Humphries, Hutchinson, Lakewood, Slater, D.H. Stanton, Thomasville and Waters Elementary Schools.

New American Schools is part of an ambitious effort for APS to implement research-based school reform aimed at improving student performance and encouraging higher levels of achievement for students on all grade levels. New American Schools (NAS) is a proven leader in the school reform movement.

Avoiding the one-size-fits-all concept, which has hampered the usage of other reform programs, NAS features flexible research-based school designs to address local school needs. These programs include America's Choice, Co-Nect, Core Knowledge, Direct Instruction, High

Schools the Work, International Baccalaureate, Making Middle Grades Matter, Modern Red School House, Roots and Wings/Success For All, and Urban learning Centers.

Under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Beverly Hall, APS has reorganized key personnel and aligned its spending to support strong instructional programs for schools throughout the system. The district has a Deputy Superintendent for Instruction, an Executive Director of Teaching and Learning and five executive directors to each lead a School Reform Teams (SRT's). The SRT's consist of elementary and middle schools in close geographic proximity and are supported by staff from various divisions and offices within APS. The organizational restructuring aligns all available instructional resources, providing a cohesive and comprehensive support system for schools.

For additional information about the Atlanta Public Schools and the district's reform agenda, please check the APS website at www.atlanta.k12.ga.us.

INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

CURRENT CONDITIONS

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Atlanta Public Schools operates a total of 91 schools: 65 elementary (K-5), two of which operate on a year-round calendar while 41 offer extended-day programs; 16 middle (6-8); and 10 high (9-12). The school system also supports five alternative schools for middle and/or high school students, two community schools, and an adult learning center.

ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE

The 2001-2002 end of year active student enrollment was 52,388. This figure represents approximately an eight percent decrease from the estimated active enrollment for the –1999-2000 school year. The average daily attendance for the 2001-2002 school year was 93 percent.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

A study of education attainment levels using census data for the City of Atlanta from 1950 to 2000 shows levels of education attainment over the last fifty years.

Table 16-1: Education Attainment

Education Level	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	% Change 1950-2000
High School Grad	34,285	110,069	123,300	148,407	57,800	59,876	74.6%
College Grad	14,085	25,172	34,495	50,652	41,123	55,982	297.5%

CITY OF ATLANTA 2004 CDP: EDUCATION



Table 16-2 shows enrollment and attendance data for the school system for the past twelve years. Please note that the enrollment figure for 1999-2000 represents the end of year active enrollment for K-12. Previous figures represented numbers of persons that appeared at any time on the roll during a given year for all APS programs. The table continues to show that the trend is toward a decline in enrollment and average daily attendance.

Table 16-2: Trends in Enrollment and Average Daily Attendance, 1990-2000

School Year	Enrollment (All APS Program)	Average Daily Attendance	
		Number	Percent of Enrollment
1990-1991	65,655	54,895	83.6
1991-1992	64,829	53,786	83.0
1992-1993	61,947	58,451	94.4
1993-1994	62,266	58,222	93.5
1994-1995	62,701	56,744	90.4
1995-1996	59,648	54,332	91.1
1996-1997	65,699	58,042	91.1
1997-1998	65,189	57,711	92.1
1998-1999	64,569	57,117	92.4
1999-2000	55,672*	52,684	94.6
2000-2001	53,576	49,504	92.4
2001-2002	52,388	48,721	93.0

Note: Average daily attendance figures are for elementary, middle and high school attendance only (K-12).

Sources: Statistical Services: School Year Enrollment Report 2001-2002, Atlanta Public Schools, June 2000.

* This figure represents active year-end enrollment, which is not the same as information previously reported that represented total of persons ever appearing on the role for a given year.

CLOSED FACILITIES AND VACANT PROPERTY

Atlanta Public Schools owns several sites where schools have been closed. Some of these facilities are used for alternative purposes by the school system and are leased to other non-profit organizations. In most cases, declining enrollment and deteriorated building conditions were the primary reasons for closing these facilities. The Atlanta Public Schools also owns vacant property, which in some cases was purchased as potential sites for new schools. The properties, along with all properties owned by the Atlanta Public School, are a part of the current Facilities Master Plan (Build Smart). Decisions have been made regarding which of these properties APS will dispose of and which APS will seek tenants for to minimize property deterioration. The school board may use these facilities for alternative APS programs and activities, lease, or sell these facilities and land to public or private organizations for uses consistent with local zoning classifications. The Atlanta Public Schools intends to continue to coordinate with the City's Planning Department. Local public and private economic development organizations may enhance the board's opportunities to dispose of these vacant buildings and properties in ways that contribute to the prosperity of communities in the City. Schools consolidated with neighboring schools and for which the permanent regular education program has been discontinued are identified Table 16-3.

Table 16-3: Schools Phased Out effective August 2001

School Closed	Receiving Schools	Proposed Use
Guice Elementary School	Parkside Elementary School	Early Learning & G-Capp
West Elementary School	Parkside Elementary School	Relocation Site
Slater Elementary School	Parkside Elementary School	Charter School

Source: Atlanta Board of Education, Facilities Services 2001.

CURRENT POLICIES

Improving educational quality and access is absolutely vital to Atlanta's future. In recognition of this imperative, the City, through the Atlanta Board of Education, schools of higher learning, and the library system, seeks to link and coordinate its support of quality education. The following policies are aimed at achieving these goals:

1. Fulfill citizen's life preparation and intellectual need.
2. Assure access to ideas, information and technology.
3. Improve academic performance.
4. Retain and attract students.
5. Control violence in school settings.
6. Promote the constructive renovation of local school and library facilities.
7. Work in bridging the digital divide.

CURRENT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Transforming all of our schools into safe, stimulating environments conducive to learning will require long-term commitment from the school system and the entire community. Georgia's Quality Basic Education Act (QBE) requires local school systems to prepare a local facilities plan in order to identify proposed improvements that would involve the renovation, modernization, and/or construction of school facilities. QBE establishes minimum enrollment standards for all elementary, middle and high schools. School systems must meet the standards to be eligible to receive funding for needed physical improvements.

Local facilities plans are five-year plans and are the basis for applications to the State for school construction funds. The Atlanta Board of Education's most recent State (Georgia Department Education) approved plan covers the period July 1, 1998 through June 30, 2002. Two major categories of facilities needs are addressed in the plan presented to the state: (1) renovation and modernization of existing buildings, and (2) construction of additions and new facilities to meet increased student enrollments. The State does not necessarily provide reimbursement for all identified needs of a school system.

Community Technology Initiative - Community Cyber Centers

The City and APS are developing an information-technology strategy to increase access to computers, appropriate training, and resources to prepare central city youths to work and play in the 21st Century. The City has received an \$8.1 million grant to develop a series of community technology centers, where citizens can access the Internet and receive training. The City established the Mayor's Office of Community Technology (MOCT) in 2000 and appointed a blue ribbon committee of top corporate and educational leaders to assist with the planning. MOCT conducted a community needs and resources assessment. The resources assessment afforded the City the opportunity to study best practices and develop a program that strengthens what already exists in the community and fills the void of what is needed. MOCT opened its first technology center in June of 2000. By the end of the year five centers were in operation. Fifteen centers now exist, where more than 12,000 students have trained.

Table 16-3 City of Atlanta Community Cyber Centers

Cyber Center Headquarters 818 Pollard Boulevard (404) 880-7220	Atlanta Public Library One Margaret Mitchell Square (After School only) (404) 730-1796	Ben Hill Recreation Center 2405 Fairburn Rd., SW (404) 346-5891
Bessie Branham Recreation Center 2051 Delano Drive NE (404) 371-5010	Capitol Homes 89 Memorial Drive, SE	Collier Heights Recreation Center 3691 Collier Drive NW (404) 505-3136
Dunbar Community Center 477 Windsor St., SW (404) 658-6545	E-Learning Center 2040 Rockbridge Rd. (678) 553-3034	John Birdine Community Center 215 Lakewood Way, SW (404) 624-0861
Morris Brown College 653 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive (404) 577-6181	Oakland Recreation Center 1305 Oakland Dr. SW (404) 756-1858	Southeast Recreation Center 365 Cleveland Ave., SE (404) 624-0772
Westside Whitehead YMCA 101 Ollie St. (404) 525-1556	Grove Park Recreation Center 750 Frances St. (404) 799-2342	

COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN - BUILD SMART PROJECT

The Atlanta Public Schools (APS) has established a strategic plan for improving student performance, including whole school reform, annual performance targets and accountability measures. In support of this plan, the system has embarked upon a facilities plan (the Build Smart Project) for renovation/construction to all instructional facilities, with the goal of creating positive learning environments for every child in the system, either in a new or completely renovated facility. A parallel goal is to reduce ongoing operations and maintenance expenses through more efficient use of existing and proposed facilities.

Under this current local facilities plan, the Atlanta School Board has moved to renovate or construct new schools that are conducive to learning and to meet the changing demographics of communities within the City. The current facilities plan outlines a projected \$323 million in

expenditures for renovations and construction projects. Between 1998 and 2001 the system had completed more than \$140 million worth of projects, including approximately 27 renovation and new constructions projects.

In 2000 the Board selected a consultant to develop a Comprehensive Master Plan. This comprehensive facilities plan projects all of the district's needs over a five-year period. The APS, consistent with the plan, has established a strategic plan for improving student performance including whole school reform, annual performance targets and accountability measures. A parallel goal is to reduce ongoing operations and maintenance expenses through more efficient use of existing and proposed facilities. The effort is being guided by the mission to provide neighborhood-based elementary schools, small classes and small schools, accommodations for comprehensive instructional programs including art, music, foreign language and physical education and increasing non-traditional programs for both gifted and challenged students.

The system has undertaken significant capital investments over the last ten years, including the Certificate of Participation for School (COPS) Program, Bond Program and the current Special Purpose Local Sales Tax (SPLOST) Program. Under the direction of APS Construction Management, renovation/new construction work has accelerated during the last five years. As a result of this effort and previous efforts, over 34 projects have been completed since 1995, including several new/reconstructed schools with another 22 facilities presently in design or under construction.

The Build Smart Project launches a more comprehensive framework for completing facility improvements and achieving the systems goals over the next five years, with built-in flexibility to accommodate inevitable change and respond to financial consideration. The system is aggressively striving to touch every school facility to accomplish the renovation/construction work necessary to support the system's planned program of instruction in first-class facilities outfitted for the 21st century. This work is a parallel effort to the system's ongoing capital improvement programs of maintenance and repair.

APS has continued to be involved in statewide education reform associated with the Governor's Reform Act. The recently passed legislation includes funding ratios and maximum classroom size standards for all levels of K-12 schools. While APS believes the new state standards are consistent with APS standard established in the Build Smart Project, the Georgia Department of Education will soon make final recommendations on how to carry out classroom size mandates within each school district. Final definition of the State's class-room size mandate is not expected to have significant affects on the recommendations for elementary and middle schools, but it may necessitate further study of high school facilities.

The most recent recommendation (Winter 2001) in support of the long- range goals and plans of the school district are estimated to cost approximately \$510 million. These costs represent a continuation of the current program pending additional dollars being made available over the next five years.

Table 16-4 details the school-by-school long-range recommendations (per Build Smart) for operating school facilities over the next five years.

Table 16-4: Long Term Recommendations for the Atlanta Public School System

The information in the “Recommendations” column represents the original recommendations associated with the Build Smart Plan. An amended version has been adopted. Recommendations having a notation of “hold,” “void,” etc. indicate that further study is underway.

Elementary Schools	Recommendations	Monitor
	A * in the “Monitor” column indicates that the Planning Team would recommend continuing to monitor and study certain school zones where dynamic change affecting population is occurring.	
Adamsville	Renovation/construction is planned to begin this summer. The school presently loses some students through the administrative transfer. To avoid potential overcrowding, it is recommended that a portion of the current attendance zone be modified to redistrict some students to surrounding schools.	
Anderson Park	The recommendation is to consolidate Anderson Park ES with surrounding elementary schools (Collier Heights, F.L. Stanton, Peyton Forest and White ES.) An addition to F.L. Stanton ES and the move of Collier Heights to the Usher MS site would be necessary to accomplish this move. The site should be retained for possible future growth and may be considered as a site for a Pre-K Center. The large site could also be utilized for a relocation site. HOLD	
Arkwright	The recommendation is to build a new school for the Ragsdale and Arkwright communities. It is recommended that a Siting Commission be formed to study the best possible location for the new school.	
Beecher Hills	Renovations are recently completed. The school's site presents significant challenges for expansion. The only recommendation for the school is to slightly enlarge its attendance zone.	
Benteen	Additional instructional space is needed. Site constraints limit future expansion possibilities.	
Bethune	The school has recently been renovated/reconstructed. The recommendation is to enlarge the school's attendance zone to include all of the Vine City neighborhood, including the new Magnolia Park	
Blalock	Renovation of the school is planned to begin in Fall, 2000. Some slight redistricting may be necessary to reduce overcrowding.	
Boyd	The school needs to be renovated. Its attendance zone is also recommended to be altered, both to reduce overcrowding of in-zone students and in conjunction with other zone changes in the northwest area	
Brandon	The school has been recently renovated. Recommend an addition to accommodate a portion of the Mitchell students and to accommodate growth in the area.	
Burgess	The area around East Atlanta is undergoing significant change. The recommendation is to continue to monitor school age populations in the area over the next couple of years. At that point, a decision can be made on possible consolidation of the school with Peterson. In any event, additions are needed to accommodate the instructional program.	*

Elementary Schools	Recommendations	Monitor
Campbell	The recommendation is to consolidate Campbell and Slater in an expanded building on the Slater site. The City and Housing Authority have plans to develop additional housing along Pryor Road. Due to recent investment, the site may be considered as a location for a Pre-K Center.	*
Capitol View	An addition to Capitol View is recommended to accommodate the ideal instructional program and to help alleviate some overcrowding at Gideons and Perkerson.	

Middle Schools	Recommendations	Monitor
Brown	The recommendation is to expand the attendance zone for Brown MS	
Bunche	Renovations and expansion are needed	
Coan	The school is in need of renovation. Some students would be redistricted to Coan from the consolidation of Marshall MS. (VOID)	
Collier Heights	The recommendation is to move Collier Heights to Usher MS and Usher MS to Harper-Archer HS. Renovations would be made to the current Usher facility to accommodate an elementary school.	
Connally	The school is presently under renovation/reconstruction. The recommendation is to redistrict some students to the new school constructed for Arkwright/Ragsdale to reduce overcrowding	
Continental Colony	Redistrict after new Southwest ES is constructed to reduce overcrowding	
Cook	The school has recently been reconstructed. No significant changes are recommended. Possible redevelopment of Capitol Homes will need to be monitored. Review possibility of Hubert consolidating with Cook instead of Hope due to revitalization efforts	*
Dobbs	The recommendation is to build a new school west of the existing school site at the old Fulton HS. Site. The existing site may be considered as a Pre-K Center	
Drew	A new school charter school, serving K-8, is planned to open in 2001. The school is being built by the East Lake Community Foundation, in partnership with APS	
Dunbar	No significant changes recommended. Renovations are needed	
East Lake	The recommendation is to monitor enrollment at the school after the opening of the new Drew ES/MS. If enrollment declines significantly, the school may be considered for conversion to a Pre-K Center. Over the long term, the area around East Lake (Drew/Toomer/Whitefoord) will need to be watched for new housing growth	*
Fain	The only recommendation is to redistrict the school to reduce overcrowding.	
Fickett	Redistrict after new Southwest ES is constructed to reduce overcrowding and eliminate portable classrooms	

Middle Schools	Recommendations	Monitor
Garden Hills	School renovation/addition will begin this year. No significant changes are recommended in the short-term.	
Gideons	School renovations will be complete this year. Some redistricting is needed to alleviate overcrowding.	
Grove Park	Currently, the school is under renovation. No significant changes recommended.	
Guice	The recommendation is to consolidate Guice with Slaton-West ES. The existing building at Guice has been recently renovated and may be considered for the location of a new Pre-K Center	
Herndon	Given the inability to secure a school site in the Atlantic Steel project, Herndon ES is needed over the long-term. The recommendation is to construct a new school at the present site	
Hill	No significant changes recommended. Additions are presently under construction.	
Hope	The recommendation is to renovate and expand Hope in partnership with the City of Atlanta's planned new community center adjacent to the Hope site. New housing growth around Old Fourth Ward will need to be monitored. Hubert ES will be consolidated with Hope if enrollments continue to decline	*
Howell	To alleviate overcrowding at Cleveland ES, students need to be rezoned to Humphries and students from Humphries ES rezoned to Howell ES. This would require Howell ES to be constructed as a new school to accommodate 600 students	*
Hubert	Original recommendation was to consolidate Hubert and Hope ES at an expanded school on the Hope site. The area of Cabbagetown and Reynoldstown will need to be monitored for future growth, and the existing Hubert site should be retained for possible future needs. It may be considered as a site for a Pre-K Center. Possible consolidation with Cook instead of Hope	*
Humphries	To alleviate overcrowding at Cleveland ES, students need to be rezoned to Humphries and students from Humphries ES rezoned to the new/renovated Howell ES that will accommodate 600 students. A tremendous amount of multi-family renovation is occurring in this area. Small Classroom addition is recommended.	*
Hutchinson	An addition is needed to eliminate portable classrooms	
Inman	The school needs renovations and an expansion. Site challenges are significant. Some students will be redistricted from the consolidation of Walden MS. Administrative transfers will need to be monitored. (Hold)	
Jackson	The school was recently renovated. Need to eliminate "dual zone" with Mitchell ES. Increased building activity in this area. Recommend an addition to accommodate intent to "capture" increased population. Site constraints make any addition difficult.	

Middle Schools	Recommendations	Monitor
Kennedy	School renovations are presently under design. Attendance zone modifications would be necessary related to proposed feeder patterns. (HOLD)	
Kimberly	Redistrict after new Southwest ES is constructed to reduce overcrowding	
King	School renovations/expansions are needed. Some students would be redistricted to King from the consolidation of Marshall MS. Some additional students will be redistricted from the consolidation of Walden MS	
Lakewood	The recommendation is to continue monitoring Lakewood ES while the new Dobbs ES is under construction, particularly given current redevelopment activities in the area. The school may be considered for consolidation with Dobbs if enrollment numbers would allow. Otherwise, the school needs to be renovated and expanded, possibly by purchasing additional land adjacent to the current school	*
Lin	No significant changes recommended. The school is difficult to expand due to site constraints presented by Freedom Park.	
Long	Renovations and expansion are needed.	
MA Jones	The recommendation is to consolidate the enrollments of Jones ES and Rusk ES at a renovated and expanded school on the Jones site. While excess capacity exists in the area today, there is some uncertainty on the future number of children once AHA's redevelopment of Magnolia Park (Bethune ES), Village at Castleberry (Oglethorpe ES) and Harris Homes (Jones ES) is complete	
Marshall	Consolidate Marshall MS with Coan, King and Price MS. In the short term, beginning in Fall 2000, the school could function as temporary home for Price MS while the new school is reconstructed at Price.	
McGill	The recommendation is to reconstruct McGill ES on its present site. In addition, it is recommended that the school's attendance zone be expanded by including the entire Grant Park neighborhood within a non-traditional zone that allows for choice between McGill and Slaton-West ES. The surrounding neighborhoods are undergoing significant change which will need to be monitored	*
Miles	The school needs renovation and some additions. Design work has just begun.	
Mitchell	The recommendation is to consolidate Mitchell and Pitts ES at a new school. A Siting Commission should be formed to look at possible locations.	
Morningside	No significant changes recommended. While capacity exists at both Centennial and Morningside presently, several thousand housing units are planned for Atlantic Steel and Midtown over the next ten years. The recommendation is to begin to secure a possible future school site in the Midtown area	*
Northwest (new)	A new middle school is recommended for Northwest Atlanta. A Siting Commission should be formed to determine the best location of several possibilities.	

Middle Schools	Recommendations	Monitor
Oglethorpe	The recommendation is to expand the school's attendance zone to include the new Villages at Castleberry Hill.	
Parks	Convert Parks MS to a Non-Traditional Middle School Program and to co-join its zone with Sylvan MS and Brown MS	
Perkerson	Some students may need to be redistricted to Capitol View to reduce overcrowding.	
Peterson	The area around East Atlanta is undergoing significant change. The recommendation is to continue to monitor school age populations in the area over the next couple of years. At that point, a decision can be made on possible consolidation with Burgess at the Burgess site. In the absence of a consolidation, additions are needed to accommodate the instructional program	*
Peyton Forest	Attendance zone modifications may be necessary in conjunction with consolidation of Anderson Park and changes to surrounding school attendance zones	
Pitts	The recommendation is to consolidate Pitts and Mitchell ES at a new school. A Siting Commission should be formed to look at possible locations.	*
Price	The school will be reconstructed in June (2003?). Some redistricting will be necessary, particularly related to the closure of Marshall MS and the proposed feeder patterns	
Ragsdale	The recommendation is to build a new school for the Ragsdale and Arkwright communities. A Siting Commission should be charged to find the best location. One consideration would be to reconstruct on the Ragsdale site, which would require APS to purchase additional land	
Rivers	No significant changes recommended	
Rusk	The recommendation is to consolidate the enrollments of Rusk ES and Jones ES at a renovated and expanded school on the Jones site. While excess capacity exists in the area today, there is some uncertainty on the future number of children once AHA's redevelopment of Magnolia Park (Bethune ES), Village at Castleberry (Oglethorpe ES) and Harris Homes (Jones ES) is complete	*
Scott	The school is finishing renovations/reconstruction. No significant changes are recommended	
Slater	The recommendation is to consolidate Slater ES and Campbell ES on the Slater site. Slater will need to be expanded. The City and Housing Authority have plans to develop additional housing along Pryor Road.	*
Slaton/ West	The new school is planned to open in Fall 2001. Attendance zone modification will be necessary related to D.H. Stanton, Benteen and McGill to better align with neighborhood boundaries and to accommodate consolidation of Guice ES. A non-traditional zone is recommended for the Grant Park neighborhood that allows for choice between McGill and Slaton/West	*

Middle Schools	Recommendations	Monitor
Smith	It is recommended that the Smith ES will need to be monitored for population changes over the next several years. Some students may need to be redistricted to reduce overcrowding. Cafeteria needs to be expanded.	*
Southwest (new)	New school to be constructed in southwest Atlanta to relieve overcrowding at Continental Colony, Fickett and Kimberly. A Siting Commission is recommended to determine the best location, preferably south of Campbellton Road. One possible location is the Ben Hill Community Center site.	
Stanton DH	Some redistricting will be necessary to reduce overcrowding and align with neighborhood boundaries. Most redistricting will be to Slaton/West. School is currently under renovation	
Stanton FL	Although renovations are just being completed, additional space will need to be added to the school to support consolidation of Anderson Park ES.	
Sutton	No significant changes recommended. Some renovations/new construction is needed.	
Sylvan	Expand the attendance zone. Additions may be needed.	
Thomasville	Renovations/new additions will be begin this year. No other significant changes are recommended.	
Toomer	Redistricting associated with East Lake and Whitefoord may be necessary. The surrounding neighborhood of Kirkwood should be monitored	*
Towns	Some slight redistricting may be needed associated with surrounding attendance zones.	
Turner	Attendance Zone modifications will be necessary related to changes in surrounding schools and the proposed feeder patterns.	
Usher	Move Collier Heights ES to Usher MS and Usher MS to Harper-Archer HS. The Harper-Archer building would be renovated ot accommodate a middle school population.	
Venetian Hills	Additions to the school are underway. Some students may need to be redistricted to Cascade to reduce potential overcrowding	
Walden	Consolidate Walden MS with Inman MS and King MS. The school is recommended as the site of a non-traditional middle school VOID	
Waters	The school was recently renovated. Some redistricting with surrounding schools may be necessary to reduce overcrowding	
West Fulton	No significant changes. Renovations are needed.	

Middle Schools	Recommendations	Monitor
West Manor	Although current renovations are near completion, additional space will be needed to bring the school up to standard size and possibly aid in reducing overcrowding at Adamsville. Future additions will be difficult design challenges	
White	A portion of students from Anderson Park ES would be redistricted to White ES	
Whitefoord	Some redistricting to surrounding elementary schools may be necessary to reduce overcrowding. The surrounding neighborhood should be monitored for future growth	*
Williams	Some redistricting will be necessary in conjunction with other attendance zone modifications in the northwest area	
Woodson	Some redistricting may be necessary to achieve an adequate in-zone population	
Young	Attendance zone modifications will be necessary to create feeder patterns. Renovations/additions are needed.	

High Schools	Recommendations	Monitor
Carver	Due to inherent site assets and strategic location, the recommendation is to reconstitute and reconstruct Carver HS. The attendance zone will be expanded. The high school would remain on site during reconstruction. HOLD	
Crim	The recommendation is to consolidate Crim HS with Grady and Southside HS over a period of four years. It is recommended that the existing building be converted to a Non-Traditional High School. VOID	
Douglass	Attendance zone modifications will be made necessary by feeder patterns. Renovations are needed	
Grady	Renovations and expansion are recommended. Site constraints are challenging. Renovations should receive a high priority. It is recommended that the attendance zone be expanded to include part of Coan MS.	
Harper-Archer	The recommendation is to consolidate Harper-Archer HS with its surrounding high schools in order to convert the existing facility into Usher MS. The students at Harper Archer would be consolidated with Douglass, Mays and North Atlanta HS. VOID	
Mays	The recommendation is to redistrict some students from Harper-Archer HS to Mays. Attendance zone modifications will be necessary related to proposed feeder patterns. Some renovations are needed. VOID	
North Atlanta	Some minor renovations are needed. The recommendation is to redistrict some students from Harper-Archer HS to North Atlanta. (VOID)	

High Schools	Recommendations	Monitor
South Atlanta	No significant changes recommended other than aligning the school's attendance zone with proposed feeder patterns. Some minor renovations are needed.	
Southside	Southside would receive students from Crim HS. (VOID) Other attendance zone modifications may be necessary related to proposed feeder patterns. (HOLD) Some renovations are needed.	
Therrell	No significant changes recommended. Some renovations are needed	
Washington	Major renovations are needed. Attendance zone modifications will be made necessary by feeder patterns.	

SUMMARY OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA'S "EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 2000"

HB 1187 – "A Plus Education Reform Act of 2000" provides for comprehensive reform in the delivery of education services in the state of Georgia at the pre-kindergarten, elementary and secondary and post secondary levels. Some of the Act's highlights are:

- Smaller class size
- More local control through school councils.

House Bill 656 passed by the 2001 Georgia General Assembly amends the Education Reform Act of 2000. It establishes the "Georgia Academic Placement and Promotion Policy", ending social promotion. The Act's provisions require students to pass a Criterion Reference Competency Test (CRCT) before being promoted to the next grade. The state policy will require that students who do not meet the passing standard the first time be allowed to take the CRCT a second time. If a child is retained, the parents will have the opportunity to appeal the decision. An appeals process will be provided and a promotion/retention committee, comprised of the principal or his/her designee, teacher and parent will be appointed. The policy will be implemented statewide as follows:

- Grade 3 Year 2003-2004
- Grade 5 Year 2004-2005
- Grade 8 Year 2005-2006

THE EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 2000:

- Requires that schools identify students who are determined to be at risk for failing behind in grades kindergarten - fifth grade at the beginning of the school year and monitor their progress throughout the year.
- Does not allow students to be promoted from grade third to grade fourth without being able to read at grade level as determined by the CRCT.
- Does not allow students to be promoted from grade fifth to grade six without being at grade level in reading and math as determined by CRCT.
- Does not allow student to be promoted from grade eight to grade nine without scoring at grade level in reading and math as determined by CRCT.
- Requires notification to parents via first class mail when a student is not to be promoted. Parents will receive extra assistance as they prepare the child to re-take the test.
- Extends the day program to include grades six through twelfth
- Set up a commission to study ways to improve the academic performance of at-risk, usually low income and minority students.